



RE-IMAGINING WORKSPACES POST COVID-19

Pratima Kiran Mandadi¹ | Ar. Ramesh Raghavendran²

¹Research Scholar, GD Goenka University, Delhi, India.

²JBR College of Architecture -JNFAU, Hyderabad, India.

ABSTRACT

Considering the work-from-home requests around the country, experts are re-evaluating and, in any event, foreseeing the inversion of portion of the patterns recorded previously. One pattern experiencing inversion is the expansion in team-based population densities in group based, open office setups. During Pre-Covid time planning firms, industry authorities, and scholarly scientists worked upon the viability of open workplaces, group-based workspaces, independent work and collaborating, tenant burdens, land productivity, versatility, adaptability, specialized instruments, and man-made reasoning. New COVID-19 conventions will require more prominent physical division in working environments through spatial, physical, and worldly methods. Workstations will be separated further separated, meeting rooms eradicated, space-isolating segments raised, and staff gave pivoting plans. For instance, a part of representatives will go to the workplace on a given day, while the rest will work distantly. In this paper we shall explore the impact of covid-19 on workspaces.

KEYWORDS: Covid-19, Workspaces, Productivity, Workstations, Social Distancing.

INTRODUCTION:

Business building proprietors and corporate CEOs are completely well aware of the change. As Most of the employees are now working from Home, organizations are scrutinizing their customary interest in costly land, Office Infrastructure, Facilities to be provided in a physical office. "We've demonstrated we can work with no Physical impression," Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman told Bloomberg. Two Trees Management proprietor Jed Walentas takes note of the difficulty of pre-COVID desires. "In the event that you got more than two million individuals in Brooklyn, for what reason is it sound or effective for each one of those individuals to schlep into Manhattan and work each day?" he asked in a New York Times meet. "That is the manner by which we used to do it yesterday. It's not sound at this point."

Analysis on Co-Working Spaces (South Asiatic Context):

CO-Working spaces are also compromised [1]. Energized by the ascent in independent work and people's craving to associate with a bigger network, cooperating situations had developed drastically as of late. CoWork, for instance, was the biggest inhabitant in Singapore with almost 9 million square feet of land as of April. Notwithstanding, significantly after stay-at-home guidelines are lifted, laborers are probably not going to return in similar numbers inspired by a paranoid fear of infection. "Toward the finish of the current emergency, given, in any event present moment, serious financial vulnerability, I anticipate that new and restored duties should collaborating space to be drastically off unique gauges," Compass land counsel Alex Cohen disclosed to Singapore Public Radio's Marketplace.

CASE STUDY:

A Research conducted by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control shows how effectively the coronavirus can spread in a Tightly-packed office space. On one floor of a call center where 216 representatives worked, 94 individuals tested positive for the covid-19 infection. Specialists suspect the episode occurred through the span of 16 days starting on February 21, 2020 and more than 90 percent of the cases were found in a densely populated space portion of workplace. The role of asymptomatic patients being undetected/untested in the spread of COVID-19 Virus is also a big concern. Now it is a established fact that for the time being coping[2] with the COVID-19 Virus is the new normal thing to every country.

Change in Conventional and Traditional way of working in office workspaces:

De-block workplaces: Re-think "ultra-proficiency" and "minimized workplaces" and plan to de-clog office spaces, mulling over the new social distancing norms and standards. Preferably, the minimum 100 sft per individual rule may turn into a reality.

Space: A genuine thought for more space - even with a high level of representatives telecommuting, more space might be appropriated among less individuals, with liberal space guidelines. It merits giving this thought as managers might be required to give great physical separation to each individual, regardless of whether half of your staff telecommute.

Cubicles are to be re-designed in such a manner that, they offer better privacy, isolation and safety to an individual from coming in contact with the contaminated

person or object. Acrylic "plexiglass" boundaries are by and large quickly introduced at working environments and open offices to secure representatives and clients. These defensive shields can be joined to existing office and café furniture including; work areas, desk areas, stalls, counters, cabinetry and existing dividers

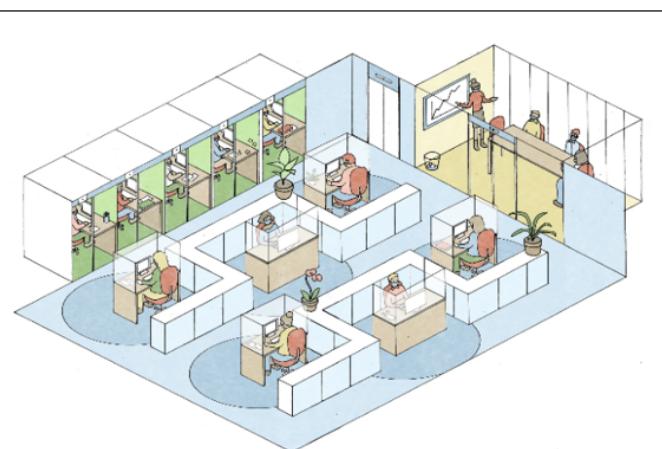


Figure 1.1: Cubicles offering better isolation



Figure 1.2: Layout Design of a Workplace

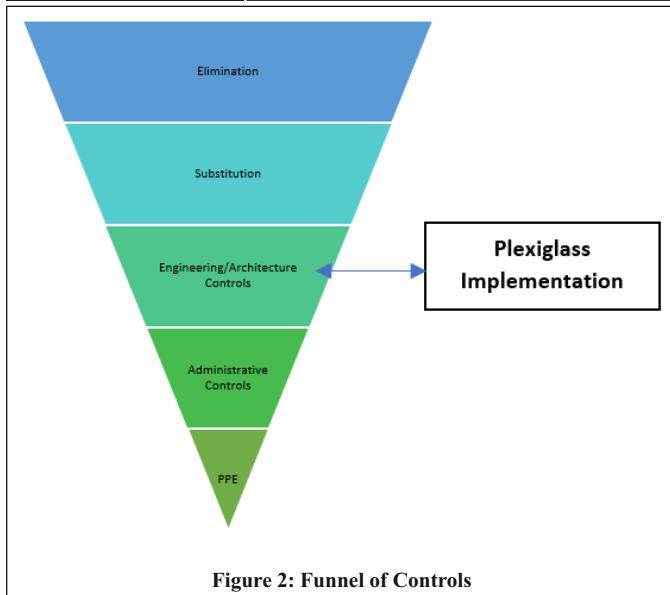


Figure 2: Funnel of Controls

Plexiglass-hindrances [3] offer the capacity to isolate people. Because of expanded solicitations for plexiglass boundary establishment it is imperative to organize the territories of establishment to guarantee higher hazard zones get hindrances first. The prioritization of plexiglass boundaries falls inside the designing controls area of the order of controls. Eliminating the peril by and large is the most ideal alternative, be that as it may, it isn't generally conceivable and hence designing controls might be actualized to diminish the chance of virus exposure. Below are the few places where implementation of Plexiglasses may play major role in reducing the hazard. The Plexi Glass barrier should block face-face pathway between the individual.

1. Retail Points of Sale & Grocery Stores.
2. Reception Desks of all domains.
3. Between Undivided Cubicles & Workstations.
4. Ticket Sale Counters etc.

Fuse components from medical clinic plan: Offices may need to fuse sterilization/Sanitization framework [4], for instance, simple to clean and purify floor completes, furniture, drapes, and entryway handles. Redressal of microbiological transmission through beads, physical closeness and airborne transmissions would should be tended to in the structure. Furthermore, isolation rooms, emergency oxygen supplies, might be a reality than a piece of a science fiction office design.

Upgrade Air-Conditioning Model: As latest evidences from researchers are emerging that COVID-19 infected droplets can stay in surrounding air for significant amount of time, thus making it Air-Borne Infection. Air-molding Conditioning for places of business may require significant re-building to stay away from the danger of network disease. Floor or zone-wise partition of the air appropriation framework [5] will be the standard in future structure plans. So also, HEPA (High-proficiency Particulate Air) channels [6] joined with high-vitality bright UV light units to eliminate microscopic organisms and infections may turn into a standard component. Air changes every hour may must be expanded to guarantee more significant levels of respiratory Hygiene.

Sanitization Tunnels: Sanitation passages and fog showers might be introduced to disinfect each individual entering a structure apart from maintaining sanitization stations at various floors and common areas.

Labelling & Signboards: Office spaces are to be stickered for maintaining social distancing while moving across the office space. Hygiene protocols [4] are to strictly followed and are to be detailed to all the employees of the organization who are using the office space.

Cafeteria's in workplaces: Traditionally cafeterias are designed in every office such that their employees socialize with each other while having their food. Presently, be that as it may, they should be adjusted to guarantee physical distancing among the employees to minimize the spread of infections.

Minimizing the Touch: Low touch technology solutions should be adopted. It is now inevitable part of workspaces. Technology oriented solutions to minimize the touching of physical surfaces such as escalators, lifts, Doors, Attendance systems etc., should be adopted. For new structures, self-cleaning washrooms that wash the whole work area offer a less work escalated and more dependable type of cleansing.

The most recent study and experimentation also indicated that use of Motion Sensors, Voice Activated Systems and AI Powered Devices can minimize the Interaction with Surfaces and can offer touch free environment.

Natural Ventilation: clean air has to be siphoned into structures [8], weakening contaminations in the air. With regards to places of business, most designed existing frameworks take in 20% of air from outside, while 80% is recycled from inside. At the point when we are in a pandemic circumstance, 100% of air should originate all things considered.

As far as possible fresh air and sunlight has to be permitted into the office spaces. Free Air should be able to freely pass through the entire structure and should be ventilated out regularly. Natural lighting helps in increasing the immunity and productivity of the employees as well.

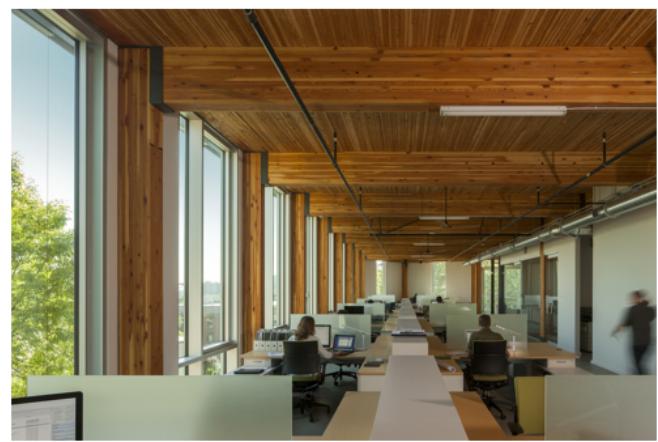


Figure 2.1. Model - I of Natural Ventilation (Air) at Workplace

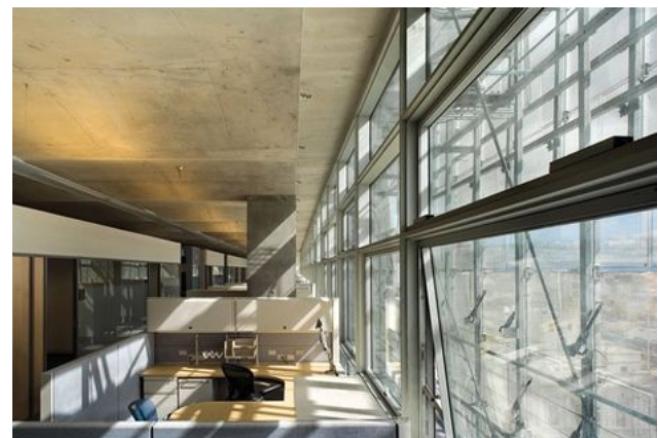


Figure 2.2. Model – II of Natural Ventilation (Sunlight) at Workplace

Every one of these progressions will call for major additional Capital and Operational expenses for structures. The expense of working together will clearly increment and sinking subsidizes should be manufactured. Having experienced this round of pandemic and long shutdowns, the conduct of workers will change, and they will require more physical and mental space. The manner in which we work, and plan workspaces will never be the equivalent again. Our future work environment plans must oblige the post COVID-19 world. As India being a tropical nation, a little daylight could be a blend of as UV rays that offer a characteristic lift for the both plants and individuals.

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